RBI Credit Policy to Increase interest rate ceiling in Export Credit

3357. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporting community has expressed disappointment over the credit policy announced by Reserve Bank of India which proposes to increase interest rate ceiling in export credit in foreign currency;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with authorities concerned to mitigate the problems of exporters; and

(c) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. No representation has been received from the exporting community in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

India as a Sea Food Processing HUB

3358. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of the COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make India a seafood processing hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the action plan of Government to overcome the shortage of raw materials in this sector, to further boost up this trade; and

(d) the action plan to the Centre to help Orissa in this sector to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In order to enhance the export of marine products, particularly processed sea foods and to utilize

the capacity of processing plants, Government have placed most of the fish and fishery products under the list of freely importable commodities; except certain groups of live fish and other items.

(c) In order to overcome the shortage of raw materials in this sector, Government is extending financial assistance for development of new aquaculture farms. Government has also approved a scheme for extending financial assistance for deep sea/mechanized fishing vessels to facilitate better harvesting of tuna resources. Further, import of raw materials is being allowed for value addition and re-export.

(d) In order to increase the export of marine products from the country, including Orissa, Government is taking a number of steps, which include the schemes for extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, imparting of training to aquaculture farmers, assistance for production of value-added products and marketing support.

Export of Agricultural Products

3359: SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of the COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in export of agricultural products is not as per the targets fixed by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether there have been increase in imports of agricultural products during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the areas which need to be targeted to reduce India's agricultural imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) since exports are dependent on a host of factors, including external factors, no targets are fixed for agricultural exports. However, our agricultural exports have steadily increased over the last few years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The major agricultural items imported into the country are vegetable oils (edible), pulses, nuts & seeds including raw